



AGENDA SUMMARY

Thursday, October 3:

1:00 pm **Welcome** – Kent Yeager

1:10 – 2:00 pm **Kick-Off Keynote** – Richard Longworth, author of *Caught in the Middle*, will share his perspective of rural Indiana's future.

2:00 pm **Rural Voices Presentations:**

"Building a Better Bedford"

Mayor Shawna Girgis will discuss how the City of Bedford and her many partners are overcoming the economic challenges of the recession and building a better Bedford for now and the future.

Presenter: Mayor Shawna Girgis, City of Bedford

2:15 pm

"CASH Mobs: No Dancing or Singing Required"

You've probably heard of a flash mob where people break into song and dance. Well, a variation on that theme is a CASH mob and this Rural Voices presentation will tell the story of how folks in Lebanon pulled one off and how your community can too.

Presenter: Scott Hutcheson, Purdue Extension and Purdue Center for Regional Development

2:30 pm

"Food Hubs-A positive force for connecting farmers and consumers with regionally produced goods."

This presentation will be an overview of what a food hub is (and is not), how a food hub can provide a means in some communities for fostering a connection between consumers/shoppers and regionally produced fresh and value added products while enhancing Hoosier economic growth and fostering rural /urban connections and opportunities.

Presenter: Roy Ballard, Purdue Extension Educator, ANR, Hancock County

- 2:45 pm **“Now Serving: Cornbread & Maple Syrup Comfort Food for a Community.”**
 Tim Burton with Burton's Maplewood Farm will share his story on how he and a small group of people came together to build a successful national event all the while benefiting their community and Riley Hospital for Children.
Presenter: Tim Burton, Burton's Maplewood Farm
- 3:00 pm **Networking Break**
- 3:15 pm **Rural Voices Presentations:**

“Finding Their Voice”
 Rural Spanish-speaking residents of Clinton County (parents, neighbors, and co-workers) attend the Latino Community Learning Center in Frankfort, Ind., for many reasons, but with one common purpose—each wants the opportunity to learn to speak English.
Presenter: Melinda Grismer, ECD Educator in the Clinton County Extension Office, Coordinator of Purdue Extension's Learning Network in Frankfort
- 3:30 pm **“Wabash, Indiana: Bright Ideas, Brighter Future”**
 How Wabash, Indiana has used the Indiana Main Street program, key partnerships, and strategic planning to change the trajectory of a city.
Presenter: Patrick Sullivan, Wabash Marketplace
- 3:45 pm **“Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay”**
 Indiana's Bicentennial is in 2016, giving Hoosiers the chance to celebrate the history and culture of their state in an unprecedented way and a torch relay across Indian is one of its signature events.
Presenter: Mark Newman, Indiana Office of Tourism Development
- 4:00 pm **“If your head's in the sand, it's hard to see your future”**
 Finding a new direction for rural communities
Presenters: Mayor Bryan Conklin and Monte Poling, City of Union City
- 4:15 pm **Conversation Cafés** – This is an opportunity to talk with Rural Voices presenters and network with attendees.
- 5:15 pm **Evening Reception & Book Signing** – This is a chance to meet Mr. Longworth, have him sign your copy of this book and a time to visit with conference attendees.

Friday, October 4:

8:00 am

Continental Breakfast

9:00 am

Morning Keynote – Jack Hess, Executive Director of the Institute for Coalition Building, will share his unique message about coalition building in rural Indiana communities.

9:45 am

Rural Voices Presentations:

“LEAF”

A peer network of the future

Presenters: LEAF Organization

10:15 am

“Creating a Giving and Serving Community”

Are you looking for ways to teach youth how to serve and give back to their community? It’s never too early to engage youth in philanthropy! This session will explore how youth philanthropy and active engagement can develop young leaders, engaged youth citizens within your communities, and grow lifelong philanthropists.

Presenter: Jill Gordon, Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Indiana (YPII)

11:00 am

Closing Keynote – Indiana Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann will outline her vision for rural Indiana.

12:00 pm

Adjourn